



**CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**  
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK  
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

**Week of Jun 27, 2005**

**ASIA**

**Physicians Identify Lung and Brain Infection Paralyzing Dozens of Tsunami Survivors**

Physicians have identified a lung and brain infection that has paralyzed dozens of victims of the Asian tsunami long after the disaster and may have spread among thousands of survivors. "Tsunami lung" appears to start with a bacterial lung infection caused by breathing in mud and polluted water, and spreads to the brain, causing abscesses followed by paralysis. It can be treated with strong antibiotics. The illness was disclosed in last week's edition of the New England Journal of Medicine. People who survived the wave frequently aspirated not only water but soil and particulate matter. Doctors across the region are now discovering hundreds of similar cases six months after the waves left more than 200,000 people dead or missing in 11 nations.

**Source:**

· Timesonline, Jun 26, 2005, <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2089-1669257,00.html>

**CAMBODIA**

**Cambodia Flu Outbreak Kills 2 Infants**

A flu outbreak has hospitalized more than 1,000 children in the Cambodian capital and killed two babies. The victims were boys, age 9 months and 14 months. Both died over the past two weeks from severe lung infections. Government and World Health Organization officials have said the outbreak involves a form of human flu, not the avian influenza that has killed dozens of people in neighboring countries. Samples from sick children this week have tested positive for Influenza B virus, which is a relatively mild disease compared to avian influenza. Influenza types A or B viruses cause epidemics

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almost every year around the world. Influenza B is the less common of the two types, but the symptoms are the same for both: fever, headache, body aches, fatigue, coughing and sneezing. Influenza B is currently also circulating in New Zealand.

**Source:**

· ABC News, Jun 30, 2005, <http://www.abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=896895>

## CHINA

### Plague Kills Two People in China's Tibet Region

Two people have died of plague, and three others were hospitalized, after they ate marmot meat in a remote area of China's Tibet region. The five migrant road workers became ill after eating marmot on 11 June 2005 in Tibet's Zhongba county, close to China's border with Nepal. The health ministry reported the infections to the WHO and the Nepalese government on 25 June 2005. The most common form is the bubonic plague, which became known as the "black death" after a major outbreak spread to Europe from Central Asia in the 14th century. Experts believe the Black Death first spread to humans through contact with marmots, which are still commonly hunted for food by Mongolians. Smaller outbreaks of bubonic plague are frequently reported in remote areas of north western China and Mongolia.

**Source:**

· XinhuaNet.com, Jun 25, 2005, [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-06/25/content\\_3136079.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-06/25/content_3136079.htm)

· Monsters and Critics, Jun 26, 2005,

[http://news.monstersandcritics.com/health/article\\_1022537.php/Two+die+of+plague+after+eating+marmot+in+Chinas+Tibet+region\\_](http://news.monstersandcritics.com/health/article_1022537.php/Two+die+of+plague+after+eating+marmot+in+Chinas+Tibet+region_)

· Promed Mail, Jun 26, 2005,

[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:13645608804801506056::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1010,29432](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:13645608804801506056::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,29432)

· Yahoo News Asia, Jun 27, 2005, <http://asia.news.yahoo.com/050627/ap/d8avue6g1.html>

## INDIA

### Malaria Increasing in Mumbai, India

With the south-west monsoon having set in, there has been an increase in the number of malaria cases in Mumbai and its suburbs, but many hospitals are reporting an acute shortage of a key anti-malaria drug, primaquine. Approximately 325 cases of malaria have been reported by various hospitals this month. In a city of over 12-million (where about 60% of residents live in slums), the heavy rains result in accumulation of stagnant pools of water leading to proliferation of mosquitoes, and consequent diseases. Rain-related diseases like malaria, dengue and leptospirosis take a heavy toll in Mumbai every year. There is an acute shortage of primaquine at most hospitals, leading to complications. Efforts are being made to procure drugs on an emergency basis.

**Source:**

· Khaleej Times, Jun 30, 2005,

[http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/subcontinent/2005/June/subcontinent\\_June1099.xml&section=subcontinent&col=](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/subcontinent/2005/June/subcontinent_June1099.xml&section=subcontinent&col=)

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## INDONESIA

### Diarrhea Outbreak in Tangerang regency, Indonesia

A diarrhea outbreak in the in Tangerang regency has affected at least 329 people, mostly children. Since the epidemic hit on 8 June 2005 the Sepatan and Pakuhaji districts in Tangerang regency at least 16 children and one adult have died from the disease. Laboratory results that showed that \_Escherichia coli\_ and \_Vibrio cholerae\_ bacteria, were found to be the cause of the diarrhea. The bacteria are commonly found in unhygienic environments and can contaminate food and water. Patients interviewed have said that they contracted the disease after consuming snacks and orson syrup mixed with ice that are commonly sold on the streets. The main cause of the outbreak is the unhygienic water that locals use for cooking and drinking.

**Source:**

· Jakarta Post, Jun 27, 2005, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailcity.asp?fileid=20050627.H08&iREC=7>  
· Promed Mail, Jul 01, 2005,  
[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:17185359501404215252::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1000,29488](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:17185359501404215252::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,29488)

### Rabies Spreading in Jambi, Indonesia

Dozens of residents have contracted rabies in Marosebo District, Muarojambi Regency, Indonesia over the past month, resulting in one death. Most of the victims have been students between the ages of 7 and 12. The Regency health office will kill wild dogs in the area to stop the spread of the virus.

**Source:**

· The Jakarta Post online, Jun 24, 2005, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/yesterdaydetail.asp?fileid=20050624.D11>  
· Promed Mail, Jun 25, 2005,  
[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:13645608804801506056::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1010,29416](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:13645608804801506056::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,29416)

### New Poliomyelitis Cases Continue in Indonesia

An additional polio case has been confirmed in Indonesia, bringing the total number of cases to 66. The new case is the first from Lampung Province on the island of Sumatra. The 3-year old girl had onset of paralysis on 4 June. Both this case and a previous case from Central Java are from outside the area where an emergency 'mop-up' campaign was held from 31 May to 2 June, covering the provinces of West Java, Banten and Jakarta, to reach 6.4 million children under the age of five years. A second round of vaccinations was completed on 29 June. A large outbreak response immunization targeting 78,000 children aged less than five years was held from 26 June around the case in Central Java. Lampung and Central Java will be included in the next phase of the large-scale immunization campaigns which will start in August.

**Source:**

· WHO CSR Report, Jul 01, 2005, [http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005\\_07\\_01/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005_07_01/en/index.html)

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## LAOS

### Health Officials on Full Alert for Dengue Fever in Laos

Health officials of Champassak province, Laos, are on full alert for dengue fever in Soukkoumma district, where most dengue fever victims have been detected this year. In the province, approximately 300 of 600 dengue fever cases have been identified and six people have died in Champassak this year, while around 900 cases were detected last year. The worst year was 1998 with a death toll of seven people; this year's toll of six deaths is the second worst. Dengue fever claims dozens of lives every year. In 2003 there were 63 deaths in Laos, and over 17,000 cases of infection, decreasing to 10 deaths and about 3,400 infected in 2004. In the beginning of this year, seven deaths were reported nationwide. The outbreak usually peaks between late June and July, when the wet season rains are at their heaviest.

**Source:**

· Vientianetimes, Jun 28, 2005, <http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/Contents/2005-122/Full%20alert.htm>

## MALAYSIA

### Floods Cited as Major Reason for Typhoid Outbreak in Kelantan, Malaysia

The floods in Kelantan at the end of 2004 have been cited as one of the major causes for the typhoid that hit the state early in 2005. The floods had resulted in the overflow of sewage, which polluted water in wells, and the problem was aggravated by the subsequent drought. The state government had also identified a food handler from a neighboring country who had been confirmed as being the carrier of the disease. Laboratory tests showed that the drinks sold by the food handler had been contaminated with animal and human feces. Approximately 698 typhoid cases have been detected since 3 April 2005.

**Source:**

· Malaysian National News Service, Jun 27, 2005, <http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/v3/news.php?id=141989>

## PHILIPPINES

### 20-Year Old Man Dies of Cerebral Malaria in General Santos City, Philippines

Another resident in General Santos City, Philippines, has died of cerebral malaria over the weekend even as city health officials declared that they have already contained the mosquito-borne disease. The 20-year-old man was the second resident from the area who died of malaria in two weeks. Health officials have contained the disease and managed to stop its further spread from the affected village. Cerebral malaria is a complication of the disease, which develops when the malarial parasite reaches the brain. Malaria is a serious, sometimes fatal disease caused by a parasite. Humans contract it from the bite of a malaria-infected mosquito. Symptoms of malaria include

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fever and flu-like illness, including shaking chills, headache, muscle aches, and tiredness. Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea may also occur.

**Source:**

· Mindanews, Jun 28, 2005, <http://www.mindanews.com/2005/06/28nws-malaria.html>

### **Dengue Cases Increase in Zamboanga City, Philippines**

In Zamboanga City, located on the western peninsula of the island of Mindanao, the number of dengue cases recorded from January to June this year is five times higher compared to the same period last year. Confirmed dengue cases have reached 533. Within the last six months four people have died of the disease. Additional efforts have been implemented to destroy the potential breeding grounds of the dengue carrying mosquitoes. This includes purchasing three more fogging machines and distributing public notices to educate on prevention of the disease.

**Source:**

· Minda News, Jun 26, 2005, <http://www.mindanews.com/2005/06/26nws-dengue.html>

## **SINGAPORE**

### **Singapore Intensifies Anti-Dengue Measures as Number of Cases Increase**

The number of dengue cases in Singapore has increased in June 2005 due to warmer weather. On average, there were about 300 cases per week, more than double the weekly average in the past 3 months. March, April and May saw a weekly average of 136 cases. To control the rise, especially as the warm weather is expected to continue, the National Environment Agency (NEA) has extended its education campaigns to MRT stations and trains. For the first 3 weeks of June, there were about 610 cases, compared to 611 for the whole of May. In 2004, the number of cases in June was 617 cases, compared to 470 the previous month. According to the NEA, the number of dengue cases from the start of 2005 to the 3rd week of June stands at nearly 5000, more than double the same period of 2004.

**Source:**

· Channel News Asia.com., Jun 30, 2005, <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/155531/1/.html>

· Promed Mail, Jul 01, 2005,

[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:15777467627819954596::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE.F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1000,29489](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:15777467627819954596::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE.F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,29489)

## **VIETNAM**

### **Southern Vietnam Reports Over 8000 Dengue Fever Cases So Far in 2005**

Vietnam's southern Mekong Delta has, so far in 2005, detected 8300 dengue fever cases, including 10 fatalities. Most of the victims are from southern localities such as the provinces of Soc Trang, An Giang, Dong Thap and Tien Giang, whose weather is most favorable for the breeding of mosquitoes. More chemicals used to kill the insects are being given to the residents. Vietnam reported 73,300 cases of dengue fever infections, including 101 fatalities last year [2004], up 108% and 74% against the

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previous year, respectively. [a case fatality rate (CFR) of 138 per 100 000].

**Source:**

· People's Daily Online, China., Jun 30, 2005, [http://english.people.com.cn/200506/30/eng20050630\\_193347.html](http://english.people.com.cn/200506/30/eng20050630_193347.html)  
· Promed Mail, Jul 01, 2005,  
[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:15777467627819954596::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1000,29489](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:15777467627819954596::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,29489)

### **Additional Case of Avian Influenza in Vietnam**

The Ministry of Health in Viet Nam has confirmed an additional case of human infection with H5N1 avian influenza virus. The case occurred in the northern province of Ha Tay in May 2005. The newly confirmed case brings the total in Viet Nam since mid-December 2004 to 60 cases, of which 18 were fatal. Four patients are undergoing treatment at a hospital in Hanoi.

**Source:**

· World Health Organisation (WHO), CSR, Disease Outbreak News., Jun 28, 2005, [http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005\\_06\\_28/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005_06_28/en/index.html)  
· Promed Mail, Jun 28, 2005,  
[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:2367214888672652555::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1000,29445](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:2367214888672652555::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,29445)

## **Other World News**

### **PAKISTAN**

#### **Cholera Kills 17 People in Lahore, Pakistan**

A sudden breakout of cholera in Pakistan has killed 17 people in two days in the Ravi Town localities of Marzipura, Amin Colony, Chiragh Park and adjacent areas (in the poor residential district of Lahore, the capital of Punjab province). The toll is expected to increase. According to details, the epidemic is spreading at a rapid rate infecting almost every household of these localities. This is being caused by a supply of contaminated water, due to mixing of water from sewerage with water for regular use. Doctors and mobile teams are actively involved in dispensing medical assistance and medication to every household.

**Source:**

· Pak Tribune, Jun 29, 2005, <http://paktribune.com/news/index.php?id=111051>

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